

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for repairing an ~~injured~~ intervertebral disc of a patient using a cultured connective tissue construct, comprising:
 - (a) forming at least one opening in the annulus fibrosis of the intervertebral disc;
 - (b) removing at least a portion of the nucleus pulposus through the opening in the annulus fibrosis; and
 - (c) grafting a bioremodelable cultured connective tissue construct that comprises an extracellular matrix layer and cultured fibroblast cells that synthesize and assemble the layer of extracellular matrix in the absence of exogenous matrix components or synthetic members to close the opening in the annulus fibrosis[.,,]

~~wherein the connective tissue construct is bioremodelable and integrates with host tissue to close the opening with new tissue, and wherein the cultured connective tissue construct comprises a layer of extracellular matrix which is synthesized and assembled by cultured fibroblast cells, with the cultured fibroblast cells contained within the synthesized extracellular matrix layer, and wherein said matrix is produced by the cultured fibroblast cells in the absence of exogenous matrix components or synthetic members during the culturing conditions.~~

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the extracellular matrix layer further comprises collagen.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cultured connective tissue construct is grafted into the opening in the annulus fibrosis.